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**CONTACT:** Ken Johnson, Committee Chairman  
Florida Authors and Publishers Association  
President's Book Awards  
(850)910-1897

[kenneth.johnson@myFAPA.org](mailto:kenneth.johnson@myFAPA.org)

[www.myFAPA.org](http://www.myFAPA.org)

## ***Local Authors Receive National Recognition***

**Lake Buena Vista, FL (8/5/2017)** – The Annual 2017 Florida Authors and Publishers Association President's Book Awards recognized *OCOEE! A Novel* by Myra Kinnie and Gail Waxman, in the categories of Florida: Fiction Books for Adults as a (Gold Medal Winner), Florida: Young Adult Books Fiction and nonfiction as a (Gold Medal Winner), Adult Fiction-Historical as a (Silver Medal Winner), and Fiction: Young Adult as a (Silver Medal Winner).

Hosted by the Florida Authors and Publishers Association, this prestigious national award is open to books published between 2016 and 2017.

“The FAPA President's Book Award exists to promote excellence in the publishing industry by recognizing talented contemporary authors who put both heart and soul into their work. FAPA is proud to be a champion of authors and publishers going the extra mile to produce books of excellence in every aspect.” said Jane R. Wood, President-Elect of FAPA.

*OCOEE!, a Novel* is a historical fiction book, published by Bardolf & Company, which is a powerful coming-of-the-age story that bears witness to what happened in a small town near Orlando, Florida, during the 1920 presidential election. What emerges is a tale filled with love, joy, anger, violence, heartbreak, tears, and painful realizations about the deep divide of racial relations in the rural South nearly a century ago. But *OCOEE!, a Novel* doesn't merely document a distressing chapter of American history. Ultimately, it is about the power of forgiveness, understanding, and healing that points toward the possibility of a better future for all of us.

Medals were awarded at the annual FAPA President's Book Awards Banquet held this year at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace in the Disney Springs™ Area of Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

“We are proud to announce this year's winners who truly embody the excellence this award was created to celebrate. We had a record number of entries this year. Competition was stiff! We salute all of our winners for their fine work,” said FAPA's President, Terri Gerrell.

The Florida Authors & Publishers Association is an organization for authors, publishers, independent publishers, illustrators, editors, printers, and other professionals involved in the publishing industry. It focuses on providing the highest quality of information, resources, and professional development to members and others interested in the writing and publishing profession.